

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Riverside County health officials receive \$750,000 in transportation safety grants

Riverside County received more than \$750,000 in funding for traffic safety grants that will go towards the protection and safety of young people throughout the county, according to Riverside University Health System – Public Health officials.

“These grants will go a long way in supporting efforts to educate youth in matters of safety. We’re doing more than just educating kids; we’re saving lives,” said Kim Saruwatari, director of public health. “Also important, this is a grant that will address the safety of older adults. We’re proud to be part of finding health and safety solutions for all Riverside County residents.”

The grants, which are funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will help pay for programs operated by Riverside University Health System – Public Health.

The grant amounts and the programs to be funded:

(\$107,500) College Communities Against Drunk, Drugged, and Distracted Driving (CADDD) Program:

The CADDD program will collaborate with local college campuses to provide prevention education and resources in efforts to reduce the number of residents killed or injured due to alcohol, drug impaired and distracted driving.

(\$237,000) Be Wiser Teen Impaired and Distracted Driving Program:

The Be Wiser program will collaborate with local high schools and middle schools to provide prevention education and resources to reduce the number of residents killed or injured due to teen impaired and distracted driving.

(\$210,000) PedBike (Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Program):

The focus of the program is to train school staff, police explorers and community members to teach younger children about pedestrian and bicycle safety. The program aims to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in crashes. PedBike also includes education for older adults to decrease pedestrian injuries and fatalities by addressing mobility and transportation issues faced by the senior population.

(\$220,000) Child Passenger Safety Program:

The car seat safety program provides a variety of community outreach events, education classes, and training on the installation and use of child safety seats. The program aims to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in crashes involving children under the age of eight years old.

To learn more about injury-prevention programs, go to <http://www.rivcoips.org/home/>